



YewTurn

The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners
Affiliated to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain
Issue 94 - October 2014



The Vice Chairman's Report

Greetings all. It falls to me again to write this page as our chairman was on holiday when we last met. At the September meeting we were treated to an excellent team demonstration by Chris and Rita Norton who showed us how they make and decorate their fruit and onions. Jon's report later has the details.

I am sure that most of you have already made or are preparing your pieces for the annual competition evening which takes place in October. I have not made anything yet but intend to do so next week. There will be three competitions this year all of which will be judged by the members:

1. The Novices Trophy: This is for turning of any type entered by a member who has been turning for less than three years and has not previously won the trophy.
2. The Ralph Jones Trophy: This is for any type of turning and entry is open to all.
3. The Robert Saunders Trophy: This is for the best bowl. Only pieces that have not been seen previously at club meetings will be eligible for the competitions. I am looking forward to seeing what you produce.

As I mentioned earlier I have not yet made a competition piece as I have been busy building up a stock of items for the two annual craft fairs that I regularly attend. These events give me a chance to dispose of some of the larger pieces that I make but you also need a good supply of low cost items such as pens, pendants and light pulls to attract customers. This weekend Grumpy came to my place to plank up some beech logs that I had obtained, it turned out to be nicely spalted and I am sure you will be seeing some of it on the table in the future.

As you will see later in this issue Bron and Jon Simpson will not be able to continue in their roles as Events Secretary and Editor of YewTurn beyond next March due to other commitments. I would like to thank them both for the work that they have done for the club particularly at the Tudor Rose Woodworks event and at the recent Scouts Jamboree.

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Jon of course has also been a major contributor to YewTurn during his period as editor. This leaves us with two vacancies to be filled. If you are interested in either please talk to me or Ivan.

Do you keep a turning, Barry.





Chris And Rita Norton,
5th September, 2014

Over the years there have been many double acts worthy of note, Morcambe and Wise, David and Goliath, Torvill and Dean, and now, we have Chris and Rita. Chris is an amateur woodturner who is a member of the Kings Lynn and the Beetley clubs. He has demonstrated at Norwich on several occasions in the past, and is back by

popular demand.

This might be a difficult demonstration to write up without a modicum of repetition, but we will do our best. Chris started the evening with a lump of Yew, about 4" long and 3" diameter and mounted it on a screw chuck, it was rounded off with a roughing gouge. This was then followed by rounding off the free end with a spindle gouge. As you do this, make sure you add shape, don't just make a ball. Work right round the end, adding a slight hollow in the end where the flower would have been, drill, and then sand to



400 grit, or if it is going to be painted, go the extra mile to 600 grit as paint is an unforgiving medium and will show up every mark on the wood. Friction polish was applied direct to the wood (without pre-sealing), followed by a coat of carnauba wax. At this point, those with a sharp eye will have seen Rita quietly walk behind Chris and screw the top back on the friction polish bottle. Suitable comments were made, and we all soon realised who was actually in charge.

I suspect that at this stage I should note that we could be looking at some sort of club record, it was only 7.46 pm, and the first half of the apple was complete.



Unscrew from the screw chuck, and re-mount the other way round. Turn away the waste on the crown and then hollow in at the top end. Sand through the grits, apply friction polish and wax. It was now 7.52 pm. The stalks used by Chris are fret-sawed from a flat panel and are then rounded off on a drum sander. Adjust to length as required and super glue into the crown.



Now a bit of repetition, but it is worth it. A 3" by 5"

block of Yew was mounted on the screw chuck. The base end was rounded off and a slight hollow was added at the end. Next, quote of the night, "it's gone a bit pear shaped". Drill the base, sand, friction polish, carnauba wax, turn round and mount base on screw chuck, turn away waste from top, round over top and hollow centre, sand, friction polish, wax, 8.08 pm.



Next we were treated to a bit of Blue Peter work. A pre-turned and sealed apple was given a good coating of Acrylic gloss lacquer, and set aside to dry for later. This bit of the demonstration will continue a bit later on in this report.

Next, an orange from Sycamore. The top was rounded off leaving a short stalk and a thin flat disk on the crown. These would be "dremelled" into a bit of a floret later. Sand, then

clear away much of the waste at the base. A Sorby texturing tool was used to add definition to the peel. Part off, and add hand definition to the top and bottom areas where you were not able to get to with the Sorby tool. As with all the other things done by Chris so far, pass it over to "The Quality Control Department" ready for painting.



Leading up to tea break we had a good deal of advice from Rita regarding the painting and decorating of fruit. Using artists Acrylic paint, a water wash of Lemon Yellow was added with a firm bristle brush. You need to work quickly, not trying to achieve perfection, just get the paint wash on. Add tiny amounts of Permanent Light Green. All secondary colours should be

applied with an almost dry brush. Add highlights with Red or Pink, and use Olive Green in the top and bottom. Within minutes we had an apple, all painted, and ready for a spray lacquer.

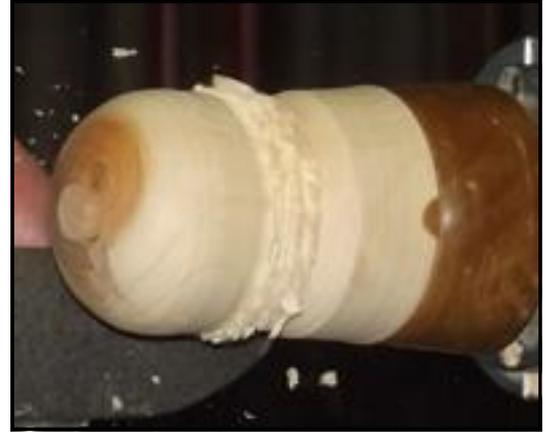
First job after tea break was to go back to the apple which was lacquered and put aside. With the apple on a screw chuck half of it was treated to a quick buffing with burnishing cream and it was passed around for us all to see the difference. It was quite surprising how different the two halves were, brilliant and smooth versus dull and rough.





The final bit of the demonstration was to be an Onion from Chris, followed by stringing a set of them into a plait by Rita. With yet another block of Yew on a screw chuck, it was rounded off, right into the bottom of the base. Drill 3/16" well into the bottom, followed by drilling 5/16" to about 1/2" deep. With tail stock support in place, clear away as much waste as possible from the head of

the onion, but don't forget, there is a screw chuck in there and you do not want to cut into it. When the time is right, break the onion off the screw chuck.



With a 3/16" drill mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the headstock, the head of the onion was drilled to create a through hole. At the point of break-through into the bottom hole, the onion was released and left spinning and wobbling on the drill bit, where upon the onion crown was completed with a skim cut, sanded and polished. I

am not sure that I am happy with this bit of the process, I would much rather re-mount the base of the onion back on the screw chuck and drill into the top using a drill chuck in the tailstock. When the drill breaks through you could leave it in the onion providing a little support while the top section is finished. Each to his own I guess.



Our attention then transferred to Rita.



Several strands of raffia were hooked through an onion from the bottom, the ends were knotted, trimmed and frayed to simulate roots, then the knot was pulled into the base. A bundle of raffia was knotted, and plaited. Every 3 or 4 steps of the plait an onion was woven in, ensuring that all weaves in the plait were kept tight and close. After adding about 8 or 9 onions, Rita tied off at the tail end and trimmed off all loose ends. The onion string is ideal for hanging up next to the Aga, or selling on your craft stall.

A really good evening, thanks Chris and Rita

The Table Display, 5th September, 2014



Three pieces from Derek Wilson. First, a child's chair made of Ash, excellent turning and definition on all parts, and a good finish. Second, A dry flower pot made of Yew, good shape and finish, but may have been improved with more definition in the foot. Third, a pot-puree made of Yew. Good finish and a real classic shape.



The first piece made by Amanda Garnham. Described as a "Thing", made from Spalted Beech and Mahogany. An excellent effort, with good shape and form. Needs a little more care inside the dish section, but overall, well done.



A pair of pieces from Roger Croome, first a vase made of Sycamore and Walnut. A good traditional shape with a "pop-off" lid. Well finished. Second, a bowl, originally thought to be Ash, but now clearly not. A superb finish.



There must be something in the water. Eric Harvey also showed a "Thing", made from Spalted Sycamore and Spalted Silver Birch. Unusual, but nicely finished.



A vase made of Ash left over from the Rolly Munro demonstration from Alan Calver. The base had been replaced because of a split that had started to grow into the blank. Would have been better to try and match the wood. A good finish with car lacquer.



A pair from Roger Groom. An excellent salt shaker made of American Cherry and Cocobolo, inspired by the Gary Rance demonstration at Turn East, and an Elm vase. Hollowed through the bottom, a nice shape and nicely finished.

Vic Cracknell had made a gavel from Indian Rosewood (Sonokeling). Excellent.



Another "first piece, this time a goblet with a captive ring from Nick Chudasama. Plain and simple but nicely done. Next time, spend some extra time on the bottom.

A natural edged bowl of fruit from Clive Grint. An excellent job, well finished.





A segmented clock face from Andrew Moore, made of Redwood and Beech. A wonderful job. Really good.



Keith Watts showed a bowl made of Monkey Puzzle. The final shape was very much decided by the way the log had been cut from the trunk. A marvellous finish, well done.

An Important Announcement

It is with regret that we have to announce the following, all brought about due to an increasing commitment to our family, and our private life in general.

As of the AGM due in April 2015, Jon and Bron Simpson will both be stepping down as committee members at Norwich Woodturners. We have enjoyed taking care of our commitments, but next year we are likely to be away a good deal of the time, and regular attendance at the monthly meetings cannot be assumed.

With regard to our individual responsibilities, the newsletter needs to be picked up by someone who is willing to "do it all", rather than rely on others to help. Whoever takes it on will receive loads of guidance from me to get the handover sorted out. I will of course, continue with the rest of this year and the early issues next year, that will take us up to, but not including the AGM issue in May. I would like to thank those that have helped with editorial in the past, long may that trend continue for however takes over.

I can say right now, we will not be at the Andy Coates demonstration in November. So I need a volunteer please to take demonstration and table display pictures, and also, to do a demonstration write-up. When done, please forward your bits to me as soon as possible.

Bron says that it has been interesting taking on and sorting out the events calendar, which is now complete through to the end of 2015 and is shown on the back page of this newsletter. She is happy to administer the events we already have booked, but along with me, she is going to be significantly unavailable throughout much of next year.

So, at the AGM next year two people need to step up to the mark and take on the roles of News Editor and Events Secretary

Jon and Bron Simpson



A Day At The Premier Woodcraft Show In The South West - Yandles of Martock

Whilst on holiday in Dorset I went over the border into Somerset to the village of Martock which is the home to a saw mill and tool stockist as well as a thriving hobby shop and gallery. I was there to visit Yandles bi-annual show which is held over two days in each of April and September. The show caters for a large range of crafts including woodturning, carving, chainsaw sculpting, willow weaving, marquetry and walking stick making etc. on the wood side of things as well as card making, bead craft, knitting supplies on the more lady like pursuits.

On the wood turning side there were a number of demonstrators, both professional and amateurs all keen to show their different spheres of interest. The three



I have picked out as being of particular interest was firstly an ex policeman cum pen turner, who, in collaboration with Planet Plus Ltd had designed a more robust pen mandrel, see photo, with a custom made tailstock support. No more grooved live centres and far less vibration than with an Axminster mandrel. The next was a turner with a lathe mounted on a

box mounted on a workmate to give a very high centre height. He said that several members of his club had now adopted this idea as it is much less tiring for all day working on a lathe and a lot less strain on the back, as you stood much more upright, looked awkward but was effective. The third was a home made offset fixture to help make offset pendant necklaces, as described on the Gary Rance dvd.



On the carving front was the work of Alan Capern, who is a member of the West Country Woodcarvers. He is a gentleman who picks up

a lump of timber and carves fabulous nonsense sculptures. Each of the sculptures is carved without removing any piece from the main structure and all were articulating. At least one sculpture had a ball within a ball within a ball and the minimum time for one of these pieces was two months. From





the photo he obviously did not even have time to get his hair cut. In addition he had carved a piece of English Ash into a central base with 13 other captive pieces, consisting of 2 arms with several cages and balls. Many other pieces of work on his display were also very clever.

There were many of the main tool and accessory suppliers represented and most had show discount offers. In the main store there was 15% off most things including all

their sawn wood and turning blanks at competitive prices, but some things, such as Abranet sanding sheets I



purchased, were much cheaper from the suppliers stand. I must admit my car was heavier going home than

coming. The wood store is big with two rooms of all manner of bowl and spindle blanks, including a large bin of Banksia nuts at under a fiver less 15% on the day, and several rooms of sawn and planed timber, again both exotic and European/English.



In tandem with this free to enter show with free parking, the local quilting group had thoughtfully put on a festival of quilts in the local church a few hundred yards along the road, to give escape to some of the bored wives no doubt. But all in all it was a good day out, with most people being catered for, not forgetting the drinkers with a range of local ciders on sale, music lovers being entertained with music provided by a piano accordion and keyboard and the hungry being catered for in the food tent and the café on the premises.

As has been said before, you need to have a good reason to go to this show due to the distance



involved. In simple terms, it has one of the largest number of woodworking related trade stands to be found at any UK woodworking show, it caters for both amateur and professional users, and offers the best selection of planks and blanks to be found at any such event.



Ron Lansdell

Forthcoming Events In The 2014 / 2015 Diary

Friday 3rd October	The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night.
Saturday 1st November	Andrew Hall at the West Suffolk Woodturning Club an all day event, booking required.
Friday 7th November	Andy Coates - Program TBA.
Tuesday 18th November	Nikos Siragos at the West Suffolk Woodturning Club.
Thursday 20th November	Nikos Siragos at the Waveny Club, contact David Ritchie on d.ritchie785@gmail.com
Friday 5th December	Hands On Night & Membership Subs.
Friday 2nd January	Darren Breeze
Friday 6th February	Hands On, and Mini Demonstrations
Friday 6th March	Nick Arnull
Friday 3rd April	2015 AGM
Saturday 4th April	David Lowe - An All Day Saturday Event
Friday 1st May	Carlyn Lindsay
Friday 5th June	Hands On and Mini Demonstrations
Friday 3rd July	Simon Hope
Friday 7th August	Club Demonstrations by 2 members
Friday 4th September	Mick Hanbury
Friday 2nd October	The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night
Saturday 3rd October	Sue Harker - An All Day Saturday Event
Friday 6th November	Andy Coates
Friday 5th December	Hands On Night & Membership Subs.

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And Finally - The World's Shortest Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, a guy asked a girl "Will you marry me?". The girl said, "NO!" and the guy lived happily ever after. He rode motorcycles and went fishing, played golf a lot, drank beer and left the toilet seat up whenever he wanted.

THE END